

Alaouite Dynasty of Morocco

A memory-friendly timeline, milestones, and rulers registry

From Tafilalt origins to the modern kingdom

This illustrated aide-memoire turns a long chronology into a clear visual path: origins, dynastic phases, key transitions, and a compact list of rulers.



Moulay al-Rashid



Moulay Ismail



Muhammad V



Muhammad VI

Origins in the Tafilalt

The Alaouite house emerged from the oasis belt of Tafilalt (southeast Morocco), where trans-Saharan caravans, religious networks, and local leadership intersected. Dynastic legitimacy rests on a sharifian claim (descent from the Prophet), a factor that helped convert local authority into nationwide recognition.

Why the 17th century matters

From the mid-1600s onward, Morocco moved from fragmented powers to a renewed central state. Moulay al-Rashid is typically associated with political reunification, and Moulay Ismail with imperial consolidation and a long reign that shaped institutions and diplomatic posture.

How to use this aide-memoire

1) Start with the phase blocks. 2) Follow the ruler list as a continuous line. 3) Use milestones as anchors.

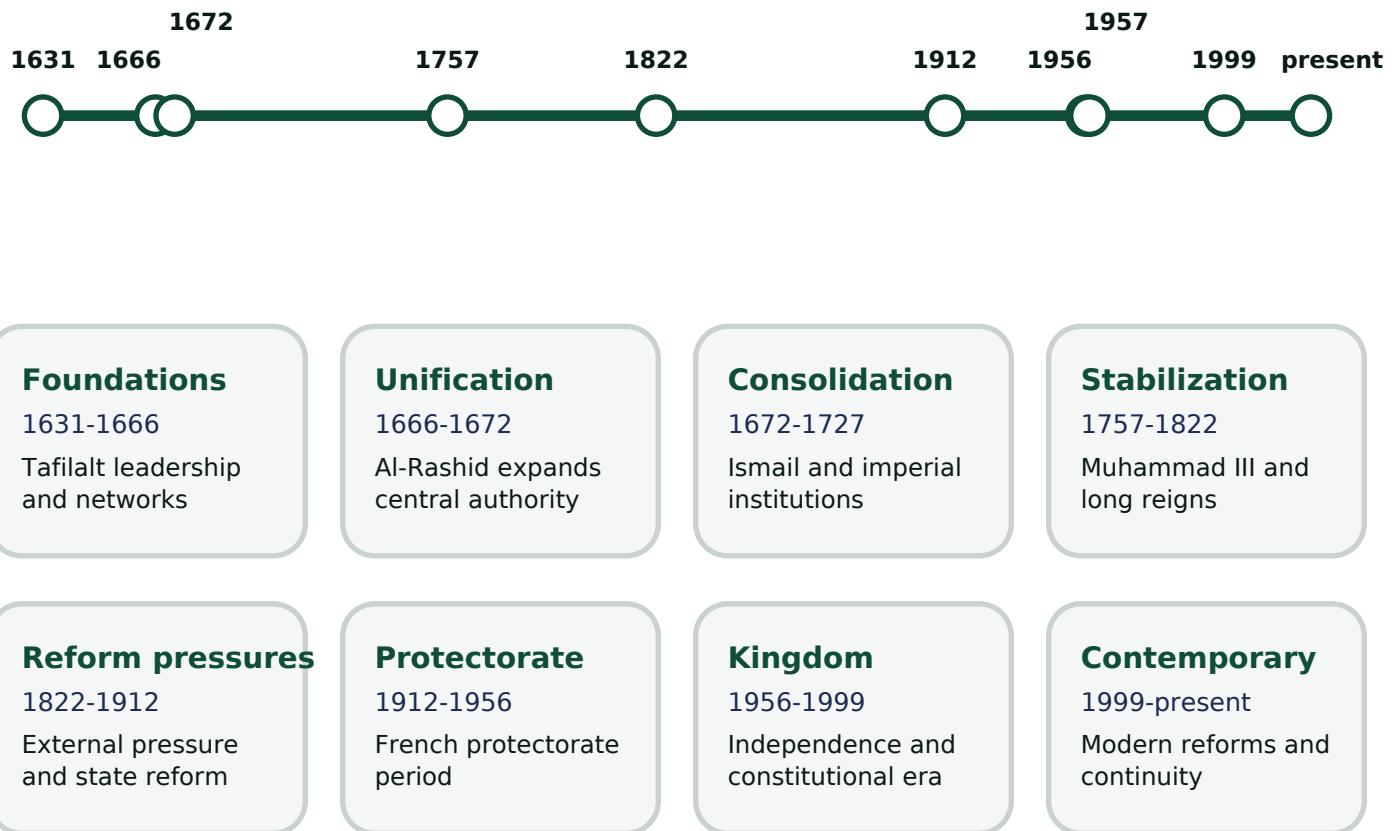
Schematic: Tafilalt as a crossroads

North -> Fez / Meknes / Atlantic ports

South -> Sahara corridors and caravan routes



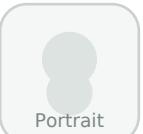
Alaouite dynastic phases and milestones



How to read the timeline

Use the phase blocks as a first layer of memory. Once the phases feel clear, attach the best-known rulers to each phase (Al-Rashid -> Unification, Ismail -> Consolidation, Protectorate sultans -> 1912-1956, Muhammad V -> Independence, Muhammad VI -> Contemporary).

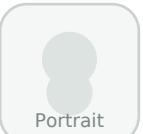
Rulers Registry 1631-1757

 Portrait	Sharif ibn Ali Reign: 1631-1636 First Alaouite ruler in Tafilelt	 Portrait	Muhammad ibn Sharif Reign: 1636-1664 Consolidates local authority in the southeast	 Portrait	Moulay al-Rashid Reign: 1666-1672 Unification drive; takes Fez and expands
 Portrait	Moulay Ismail Reign: 1672-1727 Imperial consolidation; Meknes and	 Portrait	Ahmad ad-Dhahbi Reign: 1727-1728 Brief reign during succession crisis	 Portrait	Abd al-Malik II Reign: 1728 Short reign in succession struggle
 Portrait	Abdallah ibn Ismail Reign: 1729-1757 Multiple reigns with interruptions	 Portrait	Ali ibn Ismail Reign: 1734-1748 Competing claimant during crisis years	 Portrait	Muhammad II ibn Ismail Reign: 1736-1738 Short reign within succession crisis
 Portrait	Al-Mustadi ibn Ismail Reign: 1738-1740 Short reign within succession crisis	 Portrait	Zayn al-Abidin Reign: 1741 Brief reign (days to months)	 Portrait	Sidi Muhammad Reign: 1757-1790 Stabilization and diplomacy; opens to Atlantic

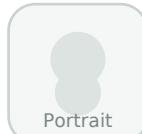
Rulers Registry 1790-present



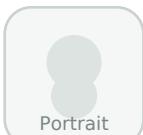
Moulay Yazid
 Reign: 1790-1792
 Transition after Muhammad III



Moulay Ismaïl
 Reign: 1792-1822
 Long reign; reforms and diplomacy



Abd al-Rahman
 Reign: 1822-1859
 State consolidation under external



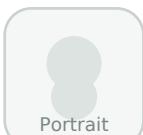
Muhammad IV
 Reign: 1859-1873
 Reform attempts; post-war



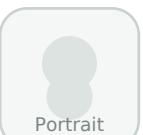
Hassan I
 Reign: 1873-1894
 Administrative tours; central authority



Abd al-Aziz
 Reign: 1894-1908
 Debt pressures and modernization



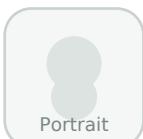
Abd al-Hafid
 Reign: 1908-1912
 Prelude to Protectorate



Yusef
 Reign: 1912-1927
 Sultan under Protectorate



Muhammad V
 Reign: 1927-1961
 Symbol of independence; returns in 1955



Muhammad Ben Arafa
 Reign: 1953-1955
 Installed during exile of Muhammad V



Hassan II
 Reign: 1961-1999
 Kingdom consolidation; major



Muhammad VI
 Reign: 1999-present
 Contemporary reign; modernization

Phase anchors

- Tafilalt origins: link oasis networks, caravan corridors, and local leadership.
- Unification: remember 1666 as the recognition turning point for Al-Rashid.
- Consolidation: associate Ismail with Meknes, long reign, and institutions.
- Protectorate: 1912-1956 as a distinct political framework.
- Kingdom: independence (1956), kingdom title (1957), constitutional milestones.
- Contemporary: 1999-present as continuity with modernization.



Anchor portrait

Use one portrait as a phase anchor (example: Ismail -> consolidation).



Modern anchor

Use the current reign as the endpoint anchor (1999-present).

Complete rulers list (compact)

For quick study, the cards focus on major rulers. The compact list below provides a continuous reading order, including short reigns and transitional figures.

Ruler	Reign	Ruler	Reign
Sharif ibn Ali	1631-1636	Moulay Yazid	1790-1792
Muhammad ibn Sharif	1636-1664	Moulay Suleiman	1792-1822
Moulay al-Rashid	1666-1672	Abd al-Rahman	1822-1859
Moulay Ismail	1672-1727	Muhammad IV	1859-1873
Ahmad ad-Dhahbi	1727-1728	Hassan I	1873-1894
Abd al-Malik II	1728	Abd al-Aziz	1894-1908
Abdallah ibn Ismail	1729-1757 (multiple reigns)	Abd al-Hafid	1908-1912
Ali ibn Ismail	1734-1748 (multiple reigns)	Yusef	1912-1927
Muhammad II ibn Ismail	1736-1738	Muhammad V	1927-1961 (exile 1953-1955)
Al-Mustadi ibn Ismail	1738-1740	Muhammad Ben Arafa	1953-1955
Zayn al-Abidin	1741	Hassan II	1961-1999
Muhammad III (Sidi Muhammad)	1757-1790	Muhammad VI	1999-present

Image notes

Portraits shown in this PDF are user-provided image files. If you publish this document online, prefer public-domain or clearly licensed portraits and keep a short credit line for each image.